



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health

Birth to Three Early Intervention Program

## BIRTH TO THREE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) MEETING

JANUARY 26, 2021

12PM- 3PM

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**PLEASE NOTE: THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED**

**NON-VOTING ATTENDEES, PLEASE TYPE YOUR NAME/ROLES IN THE CHAT BOX IF USING ZOOM**

**PLEASE USE THE “RAISE HAND” FEATURE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK/ASK A QUESTION**

**ATTENDEES WILL BE MUTED UNTIL THE ORGANIZER UNMUTES FOR QUESTION/COMMENT**

**ROLL CALL FOR QUORUM- ICC MEMBERS, PLEASE RESPOND WHEN YOUR NAME IS CALLED**

# ROLL CALL FOR QUORUM

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- ICC members, please respond when your name is called...

# WELCOME NEW STAFF

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Michelle Mathew, Program Administrator

[michelle.mathew@delaware.gov](mailto:michelle.mathew@delaware.gov)

Kristina Horton, Part C Coordinator

[kristina.horton@delaware.gov](mailto:kristina.horton@delaware.gov)

# WELCOME

## TODAY'S AGENDA

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**Welcome, Virtual Meeting Guidelines, Quorum Count, Administrative**

**Open Issues/Items**

**Meeting Business**

**State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)**

**Policy Review**

**Spotlight on Early Intervention Practice**

**Looking Ahead**

**Final Thoughts: Announcements, Comments & News**

# ICC VISION AND MISSION

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The mission of this statewide effort is to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays, and to enhance the capacity and abilities of their families to meet the special needs of these young children.

A comprehensive, coordinated early intervention system that empowers families, makes available resources to enable their children to reach their maximum potential, and provides long term benefits to the children, their families and the Delaware community. Such an effort reflects the national and state goal that all children start school ready to learn.



# PRINCIPLES OF THE PROGRAM

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## ***FAMILY-CENTERED FOCUS***

- Delaware has a commitment to strengthening and supporting families
- Family members should be included in each step of service design and delivery
- Service providers help enhance and build the capacity of the family to meet their own needs
- Program will be sensitive to the family's right to privacy and to multi-cultural differences

## ***INTEGRATION OF SERVICES***

- Services should be planned using a collaborative, multidisciplinary, interagency approach
- Services and supports should occur in settings most natural and comfortable for the child and family
- Development of natural systems of support within a family's community should be promoted
- Public and private services and programs should be supported and promoted

# PRINCIPLES OF THE PROGRAM (CONT'D)

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## **UNIVERSAL APPLICATION**

- Families with children ages birth to thirty-six months with disabilities or developmental delays should receive comprehensive, multidisciplinary evaluations and assessments
- Families should have access to all necessary early intervention services

## **COST EFFECTIVENESS**

- System should maximize the use of third-party payment and avoid duplication of effort

## **HIGH QUALITY SERVICES**

- Services should be provided at the highest standards of quality
- Providers should meet appropriate licensing and credentialing guidelines

# ADMINISTRATIVE

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- Approval of October Meeting Minutes
- Approval of January Agenda
- Membership Updates



# OPEN ISSUES/ITEMS

## MEMBERSHIP: STATUS OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR NOMINATION

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- Membership roster update
  - Vacant- One Parent Position- Sussex County not represented
  - Vacant- State Medicaid Agency
- Chairperson update
- Oath process

# OPEN ISSUES/ITEMS

## BY-LAWS: PLAN FOR REVIEW

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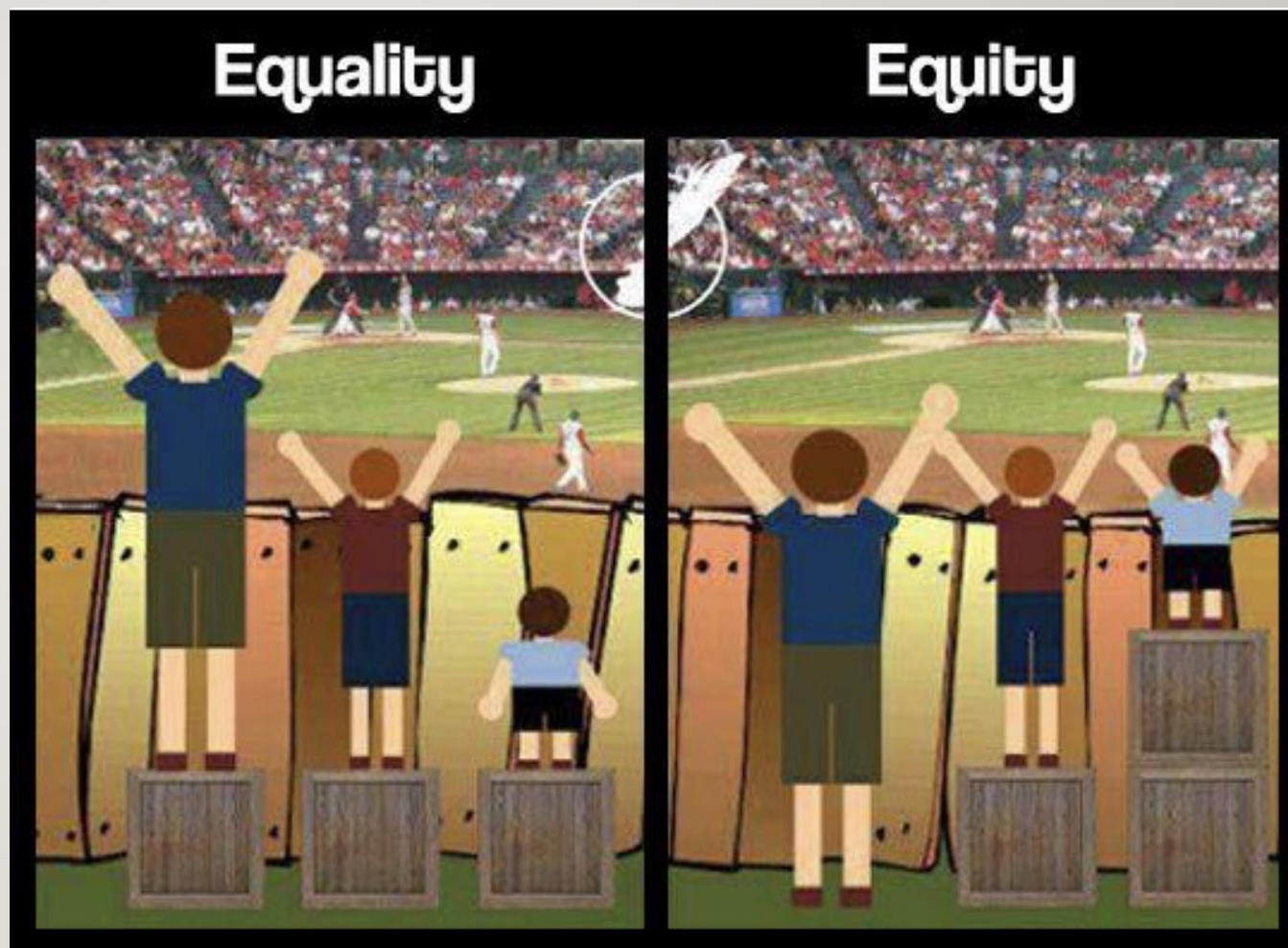
- Periodic review of By-laws
- Formation of Subcommittee

# OPEN ISSUES/ITEMS

## INCLUSION AND EQUITY IN EARLY INTERVENTION

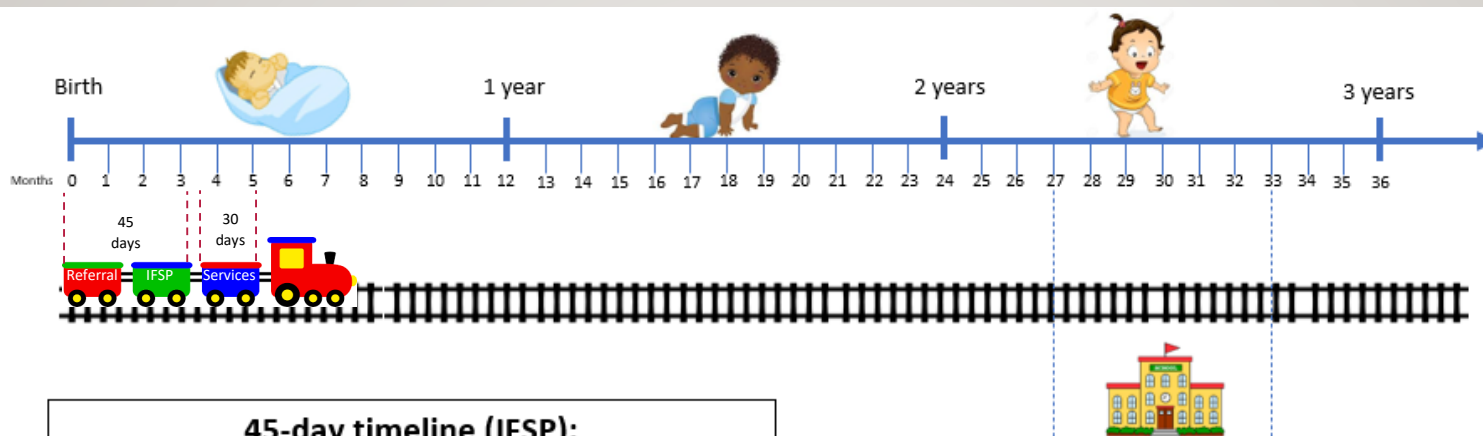
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Inclusion & Equity ... to enable children  
to reach their maximum potential





# TIMELINE



## **45-day timeline (IFSP):**

Each child must have an Eligibility determination, Assessment, Child and Family Directed Assessment and an initial IFSP meeting within 45 days of their referral to a Regional Program – Child Development Watch.

## **Transition Timeline:**

Must occur no more than 9 months and no less than 90 days prior to the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, unless by parent request.

## **30-day timeline (Services):**

Each service in the IFSP must start within 30 days of the written parental consent for that service.

**The later a child is referred to our Program, the less time we have to satisfactorily attend to the family's needs.**



# OPEN ISSUES/ITEMS

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS (OSEP) UPDATES

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### DECEMBER 2019 VISIT

- Leadership staff communicating with OSEP
- Letter received on January 19<sup>th</sup>
- Reviewing letter and drafting response
- Will share response when completed

### PART C GRANT APPLICATION

- Completed application
- DPH leadership currently reviewing
- On target with timeline
- No new policies, no public hearing needed



# OPEN ISSUES/ITEMS

## ESTABLISHED CONDITION LIST UPDATE

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- Finalize current list
  - Not meant to be exhaustive
  - Decision making process for conditions not on the list will be developed
  - Review list bi-annually
  - See Early Childhood Technical Assistance center (ECTA) for more information  
<https://ectacenter.org/topics/earlyid/partcelig.asp>
- Form a group to discuss and develop Informed Clinical Opinion (ICO) guidance

# OPEN ISSUES/ITEMS

## WEBSITE CONSOLIDATION UPDATE

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- Website Consolidation team was formed and includes members of Birth to Three Early Intervention Program staff from Administration and Operations as well as a contracted Technical Assistant (TA) from WestEd
- Worked with IT staff from both DMS and DPH to ensure communication/collaboration across departments
- Stakeholders will be notified when new site is ready
- For assistance, contact Pam Weir [Pam.D.Weir@Delaware.Gov](mailto:Pam.D.Weir@Delaware.Gov)



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health  
Birth to Three Early Intervention Program

# **FFY 2018 IDEA PART C DETERMINATIONS FOR DELAWARE'S TWO EARLY INTERVENTION REGIONAL PROGRAMS**

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**PRESENTATION TO THE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**JANUARY 26, 2021**

# IDEA PART C REQUIREMENTS FOR “LOCAL” DETERMINATIONS

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The Part C regulations require each state to make a determination each year for each early intervention program.

The determination for each early intervention program must be in one of four categories:

- Meets requirements
- Needs assistance
- Needs intervention
- Need substantial intervention

In making determinations, the state must use, at a minimum, each early intervention program's levels of compliance on five Annual Performance Report (APR) compliance indicators.



# EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE PROGRAMS IN DELAWARE

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Delaware has two early intervention service programs:

- Birth to Three Early Intervention Regional Program – Kent/Sussex
- Birth to Three Early Intervention Regional Program – New Castle

Each of those two Regional Programs consists of:

- Child Development Watch, responsible for family service coordination, evaluation, and assessment within that region; and
- The external agencies that provide early intervention services within that region.



## **2020 DETERMINATIONS BASED UPON FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2018 DATA**

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- On November 20, 2020, the Birth to Three Early Intervention Program (the Program) issued determinations for each of the state's two early intervention Regional Programs.
- Those determinations were based upon data for FFY 2018, the period from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

# 2020 FFY 2018 DETERMINATIONS BASED ON FIVE COMPLIANCE INDICATORS

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In making its November 20, 2020 determinations, the Program used FFY 2018 data for five Annual Performance Report (APR) compliance indicators:

- I (Timely provision of early intervention services)
- 7 (45-day timeline for evaluation, assessment, and initial IFSP meeting)
- 8A (Transition steps and services)
- 8B (Transition notification to the Department of Education and school district)
- 8C (Transition conference)

# APR COMPLIANCE INDICATORS 1 AND 7

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## **Indicator 1 – Timely provision of early intervention services:**

Percentage of infants and toddlers who receive their early intervention services within 30 calendar days from the date on which the parent consented to the early intervention services in the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

## **Indicator 7 – 45-day timeline:**

Percentage of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an initial evaluation, initial assessment, and initial IFSP meeting were completed within Part C's 45-day timeline.

# APR TRANSITION COMPLIANCE INDICATORS 8A, 8B, AND 8C

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## **8A: Transition steps and services:**

Percentage of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C for whom the Program has developed an IFSP with transition steps and services at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday

## **8B: Notification to Department of Education and school district**

Percentage of toddlers with disabilities exiting Part C for whom the Program notified the Department of Education and the school district at least 90 days prior to toddler's third birthday, for toddlers potentially eligible for preschool special education services

## **8C: Transition conference**

Percentage of toddlers potentially eligible for preschool special education services for whom the Program conducted a transition conference (with the parent's approval) at least 90 days, and at the discretion of all parties, not more than nine months, prior to the toddler's third birthday.

## SCORING EACH REGIONAL PROGRAM'S DATA FOR EACH OF THE FIVE APR COMPLIANCE INDICATORS

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The Program calculated a compliance percentage for each of the five compliance indicators.

For each of the five compliance indicators, the Program scored a Regional Program's compliance percentage for each of the five compliance indicators as follows:

- At or above 95% compliance for the given indicator = 4 points;
- 85%-94% compliance for the given indicator = 3 points;
- 75%-84% compliance for the given indicator = 2 points; or
- Below 75% for the given indicator = 1 point.



## CALCULATING EACH REGIONAL PROGRAM'S OVERALL COMPLIANCE PERCENTAGE

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As there were five compliance indicators included in the determination process (1, 7, 8A, 8B, and 8C), a total of 20 points were available to each Regional Program.

The Program calculated the overall compliance percentage for each Regional Program by dividing, by 20, the sum of the compliance points awarded to the Regional Program for the five compliance indicators.

The overall compliance percentage for the Regional Program – Kent/Sussex was  $17/20 = 85\%$ .

The overall compliance percentage for the Regional Program – New Castle was  $16/20 = 80\%$ .

## DETERMINATION FOR EACH OF THE TWO REGIONAL PROGRAMS

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The Program used the following criteria to arrive at each Regional Program's 2020 determination based upon FFY 2018 compliance data:

- Meets Requirements: 90% or higher
- Needs Assistance: 75%-89%
- Needs Intervention: 65%-74%
- Needs substantial Intervention: Below 65%

The determination for the Regional Program Kent/Sussex was needs assistance, based upon its overall compliance percentage of 85%.

The determination for the Regional Program New Castle was needs assistance, based upon its overall compliance percentage of 80%.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health  
Birth to Three Early Intervention Program

# JANUARY 4, 2021 PART C EARLY INTERVENTION MONITORING FINDINGS FOR DELAWARE'S TWO EARLY INTERVENTION REGIONAL PROGRAMS

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PRESENTATION TO THE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL

JANUARY 26, 2021

# STRUCTURE OF DELAWARE'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

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The Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) implements the requirements of Part C of the IDEA through its Birth to Three Early Intervention Program (the Program).

The Program, within the Division of Public Health, consists of:

- The Birth to Three Early Intervention Program – Administration (Birth to Three Administration), which has lead responsibility for policy, training, the DHSSCares database, and monitoring; and
- Two early intervention service programs, with primary responsibility for service coordination, evaluation, assessment, IFSP development, and service delivery.

# THE TWO EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE PROGRAMS

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Delaware has two early intervention service programs:

- Birth to Three Early Intervention Regional Program – Kent/Sussex (Regional Program – Kent/Sussex)
- Birth to Three Early Intervention Regional Program – New Castle (Regional Program – New Castle)

Each of those two Regional Programs consists of:

- Child Development Watch (Regional Program – CDW), responsible for family service coordination, evaluation, and assessment within that region; and
- The external agencies that provide early intervention services within that region (Regional Program – Early Intervention Service Provider Agency).



# **MONITORING AS PART OF THE PROGRAM'S GENERAL SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY**

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DHSS has general supervisory responsibility for ensuring that the Program meets the requirements of Part C of the IDEA and Delaware's early intervention policies and procedures.

As part of this responsibility, the Program must conduct monitoring activities to identify any noncompliance and ensure timely correction of noncompliance.

DHSS has assigned to Birth to Three Administration the primary responsibility for monitoring and for requiring correction of noncompliance.

# FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2019 MONITORING

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- In March through May of 2020, Birth to Three Administration conducted monitoring activities in both Regional Programs.
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Birth to Three Administration conducted this monitoring remotely, through the review of documentation in children's records in the DHSSCares database and through electronic communication.
- Because this monitoring occurred during FFY 2019 (the period from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020), the findings that Birth to Three Administration made based on this monitoring are considered to be FFY 2019 findings.

# FFY 2019 EARLY INTERVENTION MONITORING REPORTS

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On January 4, 2021, Birth to Three Administration issued monitoring reports to each of the two Regional Programs.

The report for each of the two Regions included:

- A description of the monitoring process;
- Findings of noncompliance when the level of compliance was less than 100%; and
- Requirements for achieving and demonstrating correction of the identified noncompliance.

# FINDINGS OF NONCOMPLIANCE

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The January 4, 2021 monitoring reports for each of the two Regional Programs included findings of noncompliance in each of five areas:

- **Timely Services (Indicator 1):** Infants and toddlers receive early intervention services within 30 calendar days from date on which the parent consented to the early intervention services in the IFSP.
- **45-Day Timeline (Indicator 7):** Initial evaluation, initial assessment, and initial IFSP meeting conducted within 45 days from date of referral.
- **Transition Conference (Indicator 8C):** Transition conference conducted within required timelines for toddlers who are potentially eligible for preschool special education services.
- **Valid, reliable, and timely data entry.**

## REQUIRED TIMELINE FOR CORRECTION OF NONCOMPLIANCE

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As required by 34 CFR §303.701(e) in the IDEA Part C regulations, and the monitoring reports, each of the Regional Programs must correct all identified noncompliance:

- As soon as possible; and
- In no case later than January 4, 2022 (one year from the January 4, 2021 date of the findings of noncompliance).



# WHAT IS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE AND DEMONSTRATE CORRECTION?

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In order to demonstrate correction of a finding of noncompliance, a Regional Program must provide:

- 1. Individual Correction:** Documentation that for each child for whom there was noncompliance as part of the data that contributed to the finding of noncompliance, the required action (e.g., for Indicator 1, the provision of all of the early intervention services in the child's IFSP), occurred, although late, unless the child is no longer within the jurisdiction of the Regional Program; and
- 2. Systemic Correction:** Evidence, including updated data and supporting documentation, showing full compliance with the relevant requirement.

Before Birth to Three Administration issued the findings on January 4, 2021, both Regional Programs had already demonstrated individual correction, as described above, but neither Regional Program had achieved or demonstrated systemic correction.

# **REQUIREMENTS TO ACHIEVE AND DEMONSTRATE SYSTEMIC CORRECTION**

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As required by the monitoring reports, a Regional Program must provide updated data showing full compliance for two consecutive months in order for Birth to Three Administration to determine that the finding has been corrected.

Each of the two monitoring reports include specific steps that the Regional must take, and documentation it must provide, in order to achieve and demonstrate correction.

Birth to Three will support each Regional Program's efforts to achieve and demonstrate noncompliance.

# Data Presentation

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Presented January 26, 2021

Interagency Coordinating Council

# Brief Overview

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- FFY19 Annual Performance Report Data Review
- FFY19 Preliminary Child Count and Settings Review
- National vs Delaware Child Count data for FFY19
- Exit Data Clarification Opportunity



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health  
Birth to Three Early Intervention Program

# FFY19 Annual Performance Report Data

*FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2019  
JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020*

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Presented January 26, 2021

Interagency Coordinating Council



# APR DATA: INDICATOR 1, 2, 3, AND 4

		Actual	Compliance/Target
<b>Indicator 1</b>	Percent of children with IFSPs who receive the EI Services in a timely manner	82.37%	100.00% Compliance
<b>Indicator 2</b>	Percent of children with IFSPs who receive EI Services primarily in the Natural Environment	95.59%	90.06% Target
<b>Indicator 3</b>	Child Outcome Summary - Percent of children with IFSPs who show improvement in		
	Social Emotional (1: increase growth)	68.01%	48.60% Target
	Social Emotional (2: age-appropriate functioning)	39.29%	40.60% Target
	Knowledge and Skills (1: increase growth)	69.51%	50.60% Target
	Knowledge and Skills (2: age-appropriate functioning)	33.58%	45.60% Target
	Appropriate Behaviors (1: increase growth)	71.01%	51.06% Target
	Appropriate Behaviors (2: age-appropriate functioning)	39.38%	45.50% Target

# APR DATA:

## INDICATOR 4, 5, 6, AND 7

		Actual	Compliance/Target
<b>Indicator 4</b>	Family Survey - Percent of families who report that EI Services have helped their family		
	Outcome 1: Know their rights	92.23%	92.00% Target
	Outcome 2: Effectively communication child's needs	96.11%	95.00% Target
	Outcome 3: Help their children develop and learn	96.82%	96.00% Target
<b>Indicator 5</b>	Percent of children 0-1 with IFSPs compared to National Data	.89%	1.06% Target
<b>Indicator 6</b>	Percent of children 0-3 with IFSPs compared to National Data	3.50%	2.76% Target
<b>Indicator 7</b>	Percent of children with IFSP's for whom and evaluation, assessment and initial IFSP were conducted within 45-day timeline	86.78%	100% Compliance

# APR DATA

## INDICATORS 8A, 8B, AND 8C

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		Actual	Compliance/Target
<b>Indicator 8A</b>	Percent of children with IFSPs have transition steps and services	100%	100% Compliance
<b>Indicator 8B</b>	Percent of children exiting Part C who are potentially Part B eligible and have had notification sent to the local school district and Department of Education	100%	100% Compliance
<b>Indicator 8c</b>	Percent of children with transition conferences held no more than 9 months and at least 90 days before the child's 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday for families of children potentially eligible for preschool special education services.	97.21%	100% Compliance

**Indicator 9: Percent of hearing requests that went to resolution sessions that were resolved through resolution session settlement agreements (applicable if Part B due process procedures are adopted.)**

***This indicator is not applicable in Delaware, because the state uses Part C procedures for due process hearings for FFY 2019.  
(7-1-19 to 6-30-20)***

**Indicator 10: Percent of mediations held that resulted in mediation agreements.**

***No mediations were held in FFY 2019.  
(7-1-19 to 6-30-20).***

**Indicator 11: The State's SPP/APR includes a State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) that meets the requirements set forth for this indicator.**

**FFY2019**  
***(7-1-19 to 6-30-20)***





DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health  
Birth to Three Early Intervention Program

# Part C - Preliminary Child Count and Settings

December 1, 2020

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Presented January 26, 2021

Interagency Coordinating Council

# IDEA Regulation Requirement

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- §303.721(a)(1) – Annual report of children serviced – report requirement

(a) For the purposes of the annual report required by section 618 of the Act and §303.720, the lead agency must count and report the number of infants and toddlers receiving early intervention services on any date between October 1 and December 1 of each year. The report must include –

(1) The number and percentage of infants and toddlers with disabilities, in the State, by race, gender, and ethnicity, who are receiving early intervention services (and include in this number any children reported to it by tribes, tribal organizations and consortia under §303.731(e)(1))

# WHAT DATA DOES THE CHILD COUNT AND SETTINGS REPORT CAPTURE?

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It is a one-day (December 1st) snapshot of all children with an active IFSP, which details the number of children with services and the location of those services.

# FFY19 - NATIONAL AVERAGE VS DELAWARE AVERAGE

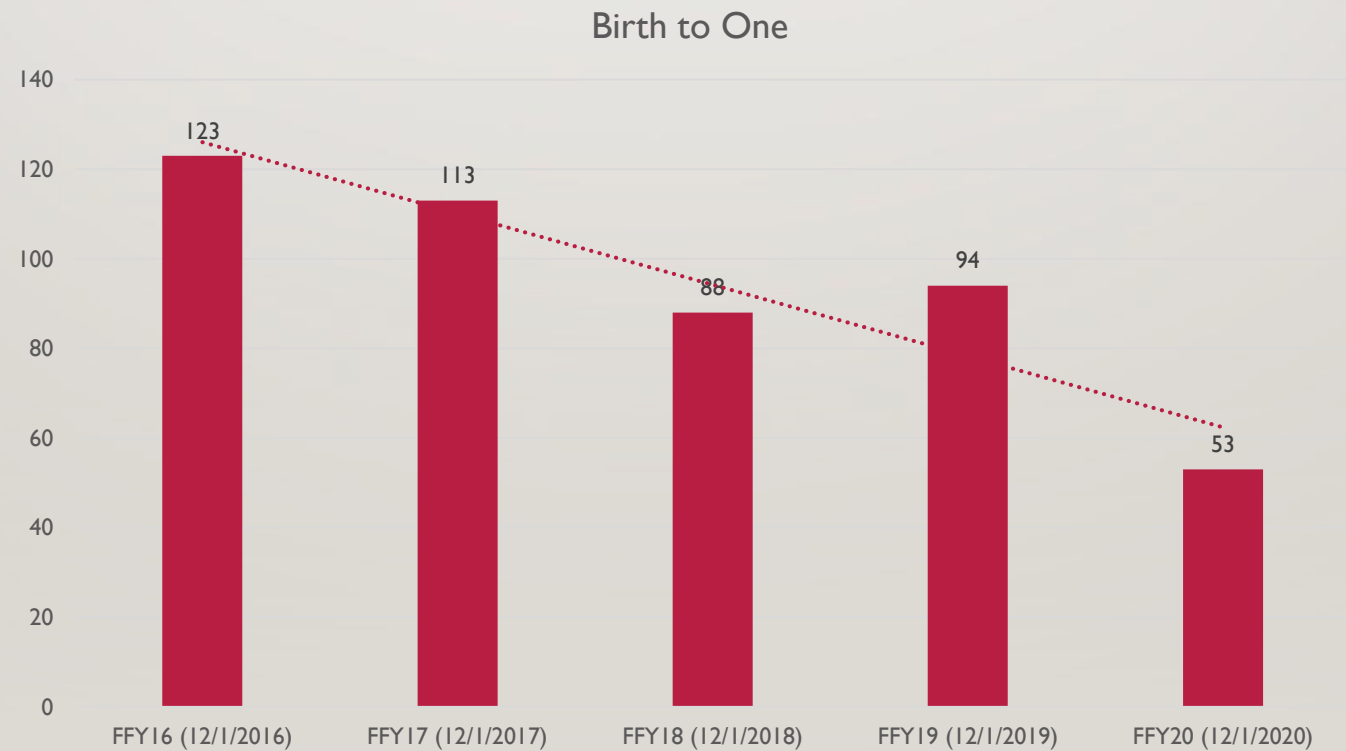
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	Delaware Average	National Average
Children Birth to One (0-1) with Active IFSPs captured (single point in time snapshot)	.89%	1.37%
Children Birth to Three (0-3) with Active IFSPs captured (single point in time snapshot)	3.50%	3.70%



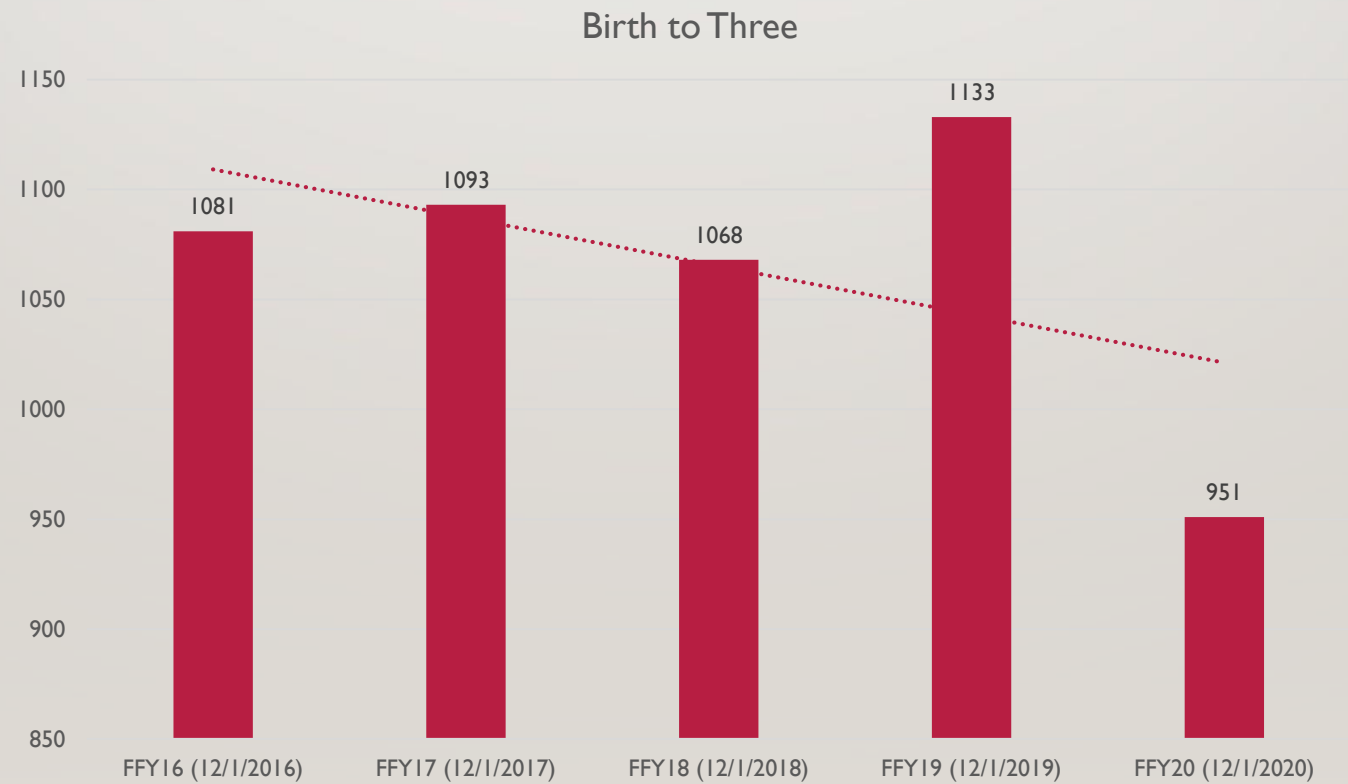
# BIRTH TO 1 YEAR CHILD COUNT 2016 – 2020 (FFY20)

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# BIRTH TO 3 YEARS CHILD COUNT 2016 – 2020 (FFY20)

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# QUESTIONS FROM OCTOBER ICC MEETING

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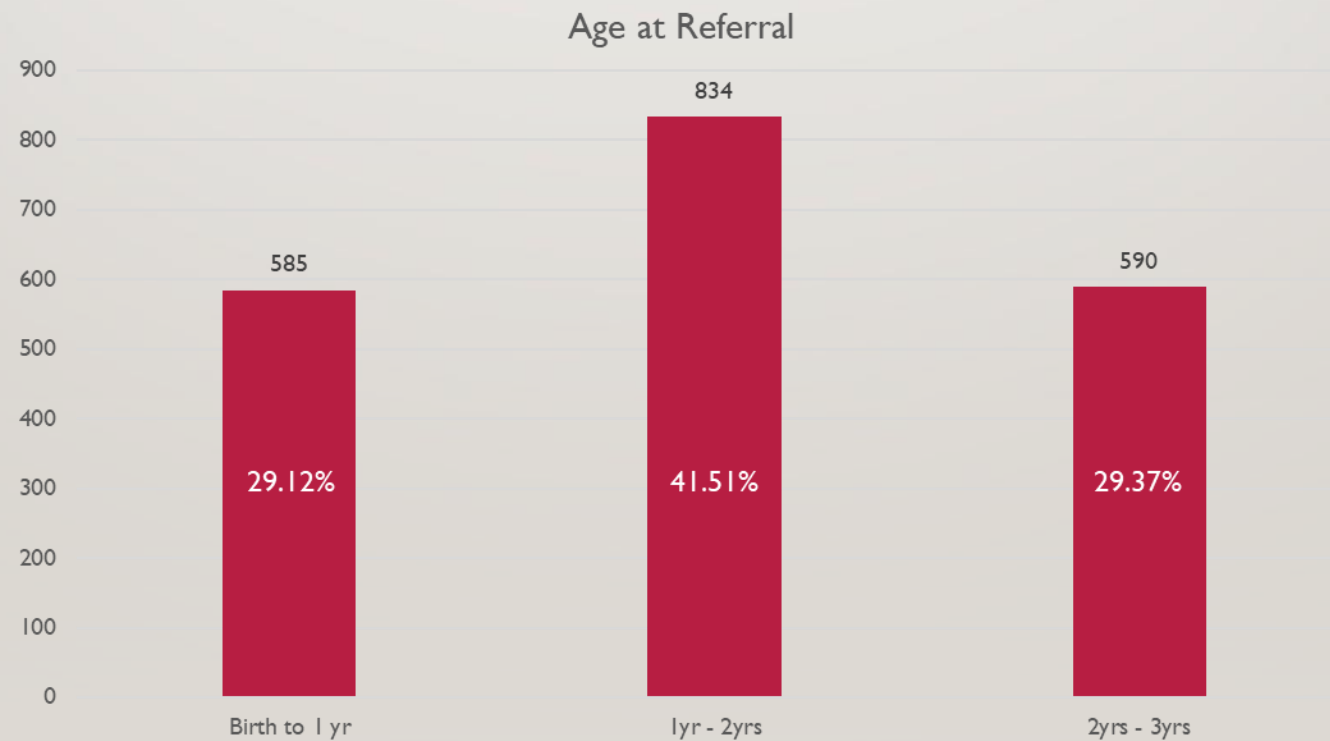
What is the average age of children when their referral is made to Early Intervention?

Of those children referred, how many had established conditions?

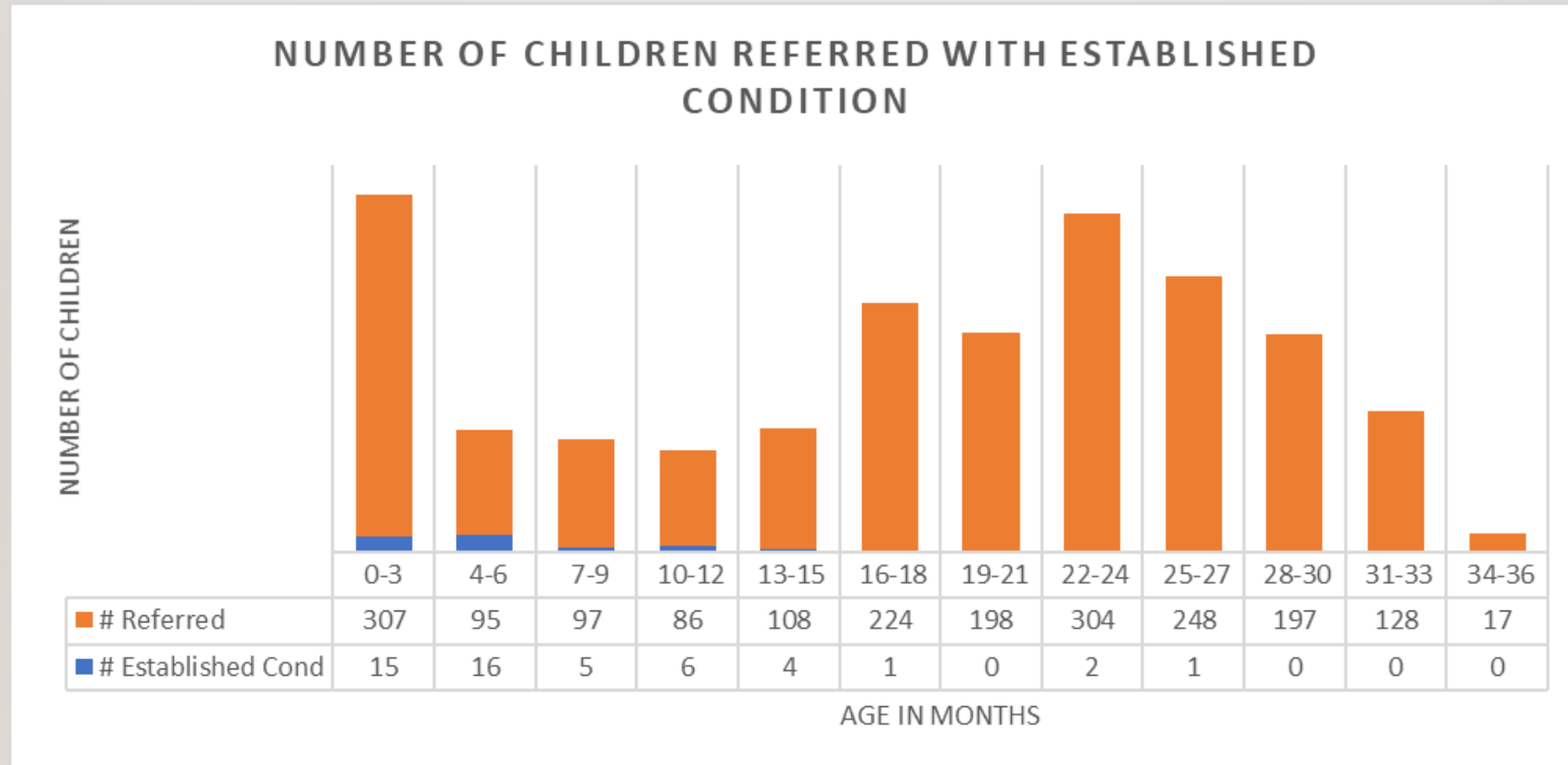
# AGE AT REFERRAL

## (CHILD COUNT CATEGORIES)

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# REFERRAL DATA AT 3-MONTH AGE INTERVALS





# Questions For Feedback

Child Count

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- What can we do to reach the Birth to 1 and the 2 – 3 year population?
- What is happening between the time the referral is made and when the child can be counted in the Child Count and Settings Report?
  - Are they ineligible at evaluation?
  - Are the parents declining to participate?
  - Are we losing contact?



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Public Health  
Birth to Three Early Intervention Program

# Exit Data Clarification Opportunity

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Presented January 26, 2021

Interagency Coordinating Council

# EXIT DATA CLARIFICATION

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- OSEP allows states to clarify data for which an increase or decrease of more than 20 children and 20% or a count of more than 20 children in one year and a count of zero or null in another year occurred.
- Delaware has the opportunity to clarify in 3 areas:

# DELAWARE CLARIFICATION OPPORTUNITY

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1. An increase of 123.68% for children aging out of the program with Part B eligibility not determined,
2. A decrease of -38.89% in children moving out of state prior to exit, and
3. An increase of 183.33% of families identifying as being of two or more races.

# WHAT ARE WE DOING TO ANSWER OSEP'S QUESTIONS?

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1. Birth to Three – Administration is working with Regional Programs Kent/Sussex and New Castle to capture specific data for the closure reason of a child aging out of the program with Part B eligibility not having been determined.
2. Birth to Three – Administration has determined that fewer parents have decided to move out of state in this reporting year. (12/2018 – 12/2019)
3. Birth to Three – Administration has determined through research of the Delaware Census data that there are drastic year to year increases and decreases for individuals identifying as one or more races. This year the trend shows an upswing in those identifications. Early Intervention data matches the states demographics.





**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Division of Public Health**

**Birth to Three Early Intervention Program**

**for more information please contact:**

**Hope E. Sanson**

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Birth To Three Early Intervention Program - Administration

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General Mailbox: [DHSS\\_DPH\\_BirthToThree@Delaware.Gov](mailto:DHSS_DPH_BirthToThree@Delaware.Gov)

# ANNUAL REPORT CERTIFICATION OF THE ICC

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- Under IDEA 34 C.F.R. §303.604(c), the ICC must prepare and submit an annual report on the status of the Birth to Three Early Intervention Program to the Secretary of the U.S. DOE and the Governor.
- The ICC may either:
  - (1) prepare and submit its own annual report to the Department and the Governor, or
  - (2) Submit the Part C SPP/APR for FFY 2019 in lieu of submitting the ICC's own annual report
    - Provide a signed certification with the APR under Part C of the IDEA.
    - Certification (including the SPP/APR) is due no later than February 1, 2021.

# MEETING BUSINESS

## OSEP'S REVISED DETERMINATION LETTER OF NOVEMBER 24, 2020

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- Appeal process included a hearing
- Determination was changed from *Needs Intervention* to *Needs Assistance*

# BREAK

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- Take 10 minutes to stretch.....

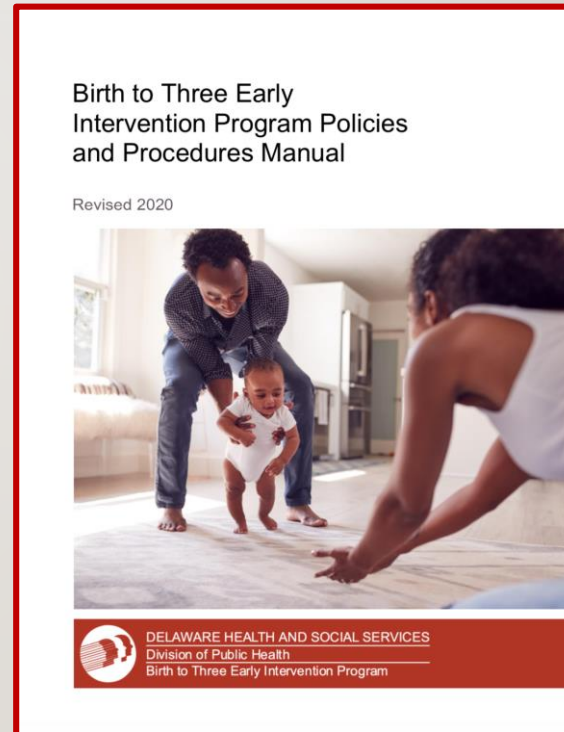


# POLICY REVIEW

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL UPDATE

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- Can implement policies OSEP doesn't have to approve
- February 1<sup>st</sup> implementation date
- Birth to Three staff support for implementation: Open Office Hours, training events, and continued collaboration with stakeholders



1/26/2021




# STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SSIP)

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- Updates for 2020 Report
- Due April 1, 2021

# SPP/APR INDICATOR II

- Multi-year plan to improve Social Emotional Outcomes
- Outlined improvement activities
- Demonstrated need to build infrastructure for continuous improvement (CI)



## Delaware's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) *Improving Social Emotional Outcomes*



### What is the SSIP?

A multi-year plan for how the state improves outcomes for children with disabilities served under IDEA. It is part of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP) Results Driven Accountability framework (RDA). The SSIP is indicator 11 of the the State Performance Plan (SPP).

### What is the SIMR?

Delaware's State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR) is to increase the number and percentage of infants and toddlers who demonstrate progress in the area of social emotional development for Part C eligible children.


### SSIP Phases I & II

Phase I 2013-2015	Phase II 2015-2016
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Analyzed Data &amp; Infrastructure</li><li>✓ Chose a SIMR</li><li>✓ Developed a Theory of Action</li><li>✓ Drafted Improvement Strategies</li></ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Strengthened Infrastructure</li><li>✓ Supported programs to implement strategies</li><li>✓ Planned for Evaluation</li></ul>

### Tying it all Together in Phase III

2017-2020

#### Implement Improvement Strategies in Five Strands of Action



Improved Social Emotional Outcomes

### Evaluate

- ? To what degree did we accomplish the improvement strategies in each strand?
- ? How will we sustain the improvement strategies in each strand?
- ? Are social emotional outcomes improving?

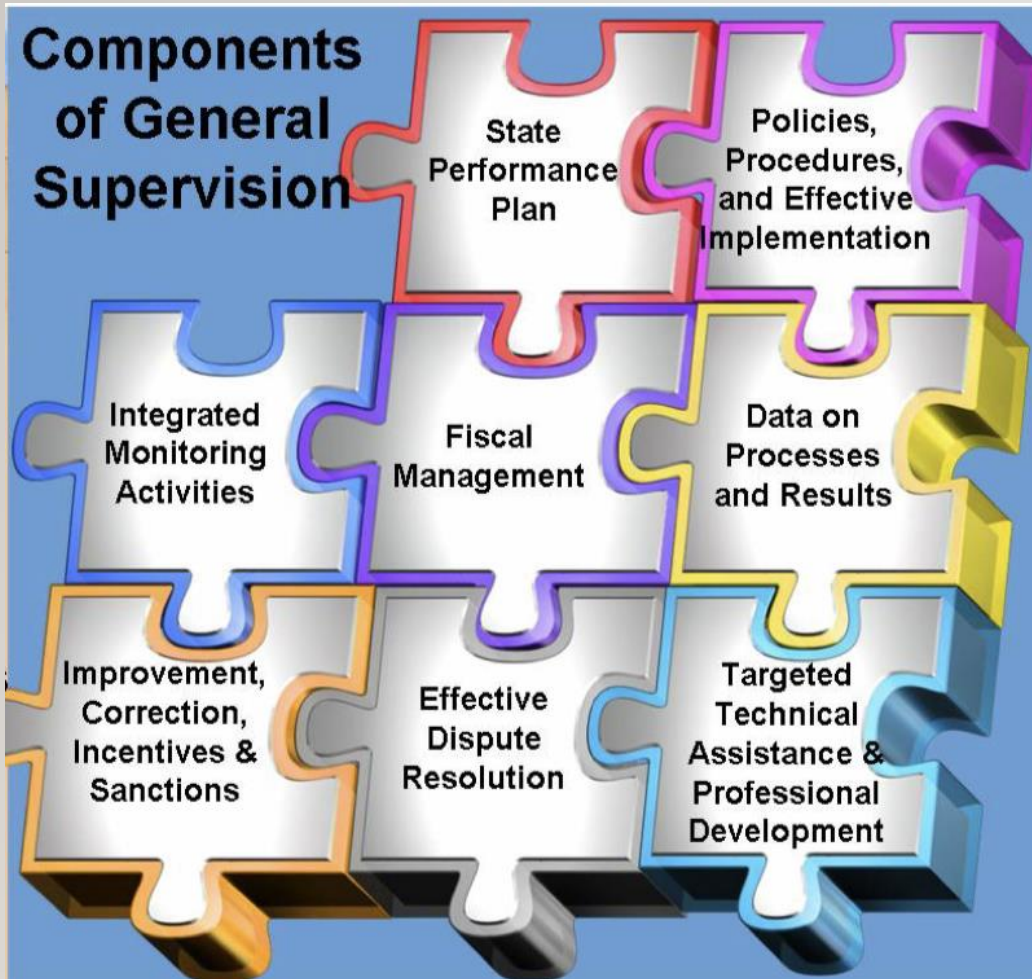
# THROUGH THE SSIP, WE LEARNED ...

We needed to:

- Make infrastructure and governance improvements for continuous learning
- Embed system supports to enable application of evidence-based practices (EBP)
- Clearly articulate expectations for improving practices that enhance social emotional growth







## INFRASTRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENTS

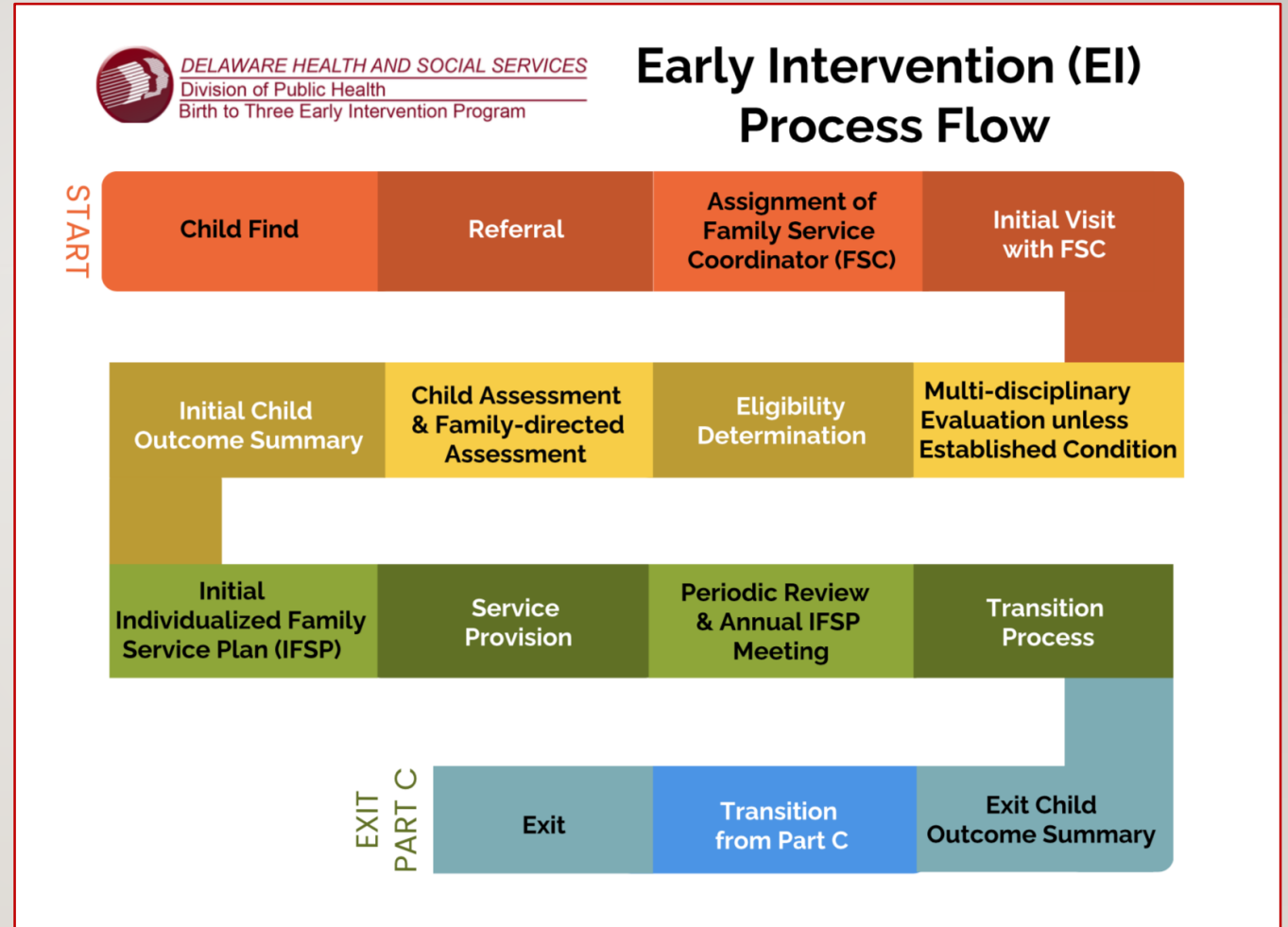
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- Reinforced General Supervision
- Developed workplan based on recommendations
- Revised EI policies & procedures
- Restructured program to improve alignment

1/26/2021

## SYSTEM SUPPORTS TO ENABLE APPLICATION OF EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

- Building capacity of staff & program
- Clarifying the EI Process Flow
- Updating external EI service provider contracts to support EBP<sub>s</sub>





# DEEPEN UNDERSTANDING OF EBP TO IMPROVE SOCIAL EMOTIONAL OUTCOMES

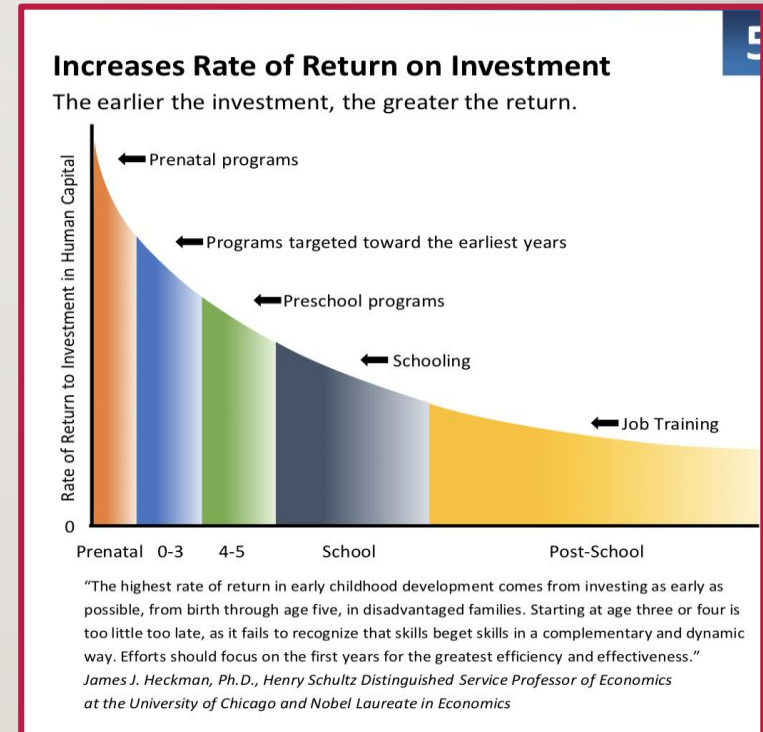
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- Completed survey of Division of Early Childhood(DEC) Recommended Practices (RP) observed in Delaware EI
- Sharing protocols & resources available through DEC RP national ambassador program (and PIC of DE)
- Supporting education & training of stakeholders to take collective action to improve social emotional outcomes

## ROLE OF ICC IN ACHIEVING SSIP RESULTS

- Consider how your ICC role intersects with improving social emotional outcomes
- Coordinate SEO messaging
- Involve or link key staff in SSIP workgroups as appropriate
- Communicate the importance of investing in EI/SEO for high-yield returns to Delaware







# Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Recommended Practices



**ICC Meeting  
January 26, 2021**

**Presented by Parent  
Information Center of  
Delaware & Birth to  
Three Program**



**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
Division of Public Health  
Birth to Three Early Intervention Program



# **Parent Information Center of Delaware - PIC**

- Statewide non-profit organization that provides tools for parents, caregivers, and advocates of children to secure appropriate education and related services. PIC empowers parents to become their child's lifelong advocate and for youth to become self-advocates.
- PIC is the Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) for Delaware



# What is DEC?

- The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is an international membership organization for those who work with or on behalf of young children (0-8) with disabilities and other special needs and their families.





# What does DEC do for Families?

- DEC promotes policies and practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children (0-8) who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities.
- Provides guidance on EI/ECSE practices related to better outcomes for young children with disabilities and/or delays, their families, and the personnel who serve them.



# What are the DEC Recommended Practices?

- A DEC initiative that bridges the gap between research and practice, offering guidance to parents and professionals who work with young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays or disabilities.
- The primary goal of the Recommended Practices (RPs) is to inform and improve the quality of services provided to young children with or at risk of disabilities or delays and their families
- Practices represent the “essential”, “biggest bang” or highest leverage/impact practices
- Practices should be viewed holistically



Leadership  
Assessment  
Environment  
Family



**DEC RP  
Topic  
Areas**



Instruction  
Interaction  
Teaming &  
Collaboration  
Transition

## Eight Topic Areas

- Leadership (14)
- Instruction (13)
- Assessment (11)
- Interaction (5)
- Environment (6)
- Teaming & Collaboration (5)
- Family (10)
- Transition (2)



# DEC RP & Supporting Infants and Toddlers in Delaware

## Why DEC RP?

- Addresses all facets of systems improvement
- Evidenced-Based
- Family – Practitioner Centered
- Practical Examples and modeling observable practices that can be implemented
- Tools to measure effectiveness and outcomes





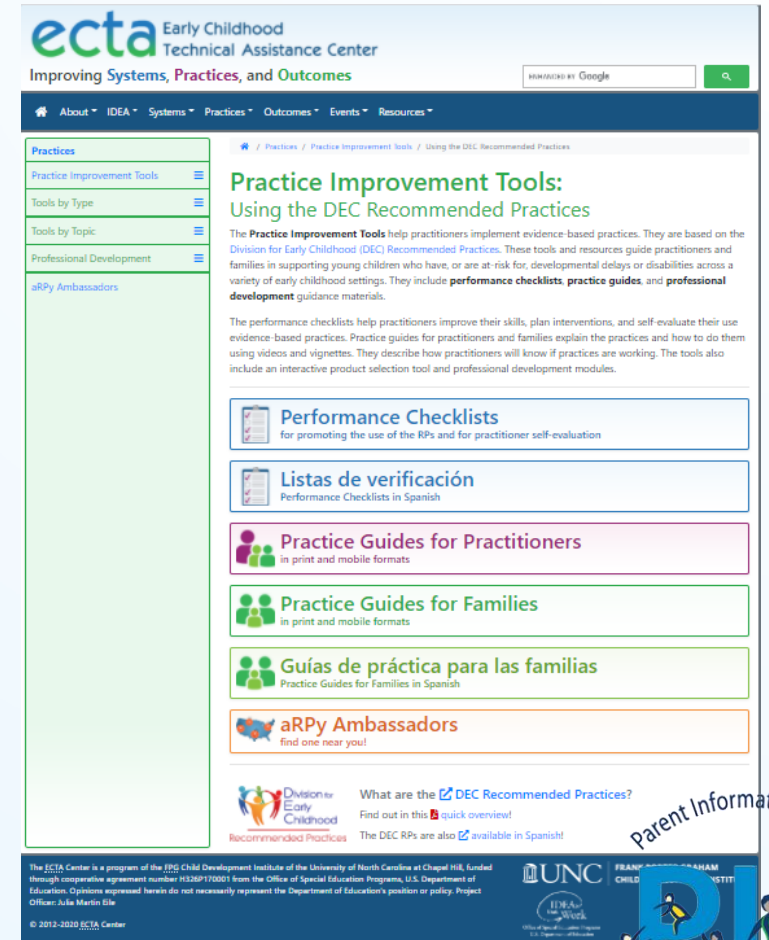
# Role of DEC aRPy Ambassador

- **Bring awareness** to the existence of the DEC Recommended Practices and share information about the materials and products that support the implementation of the practices.
- **Collaborate** with local, regional and state entities **to promote awareness and use** of the DEC Recommended Practices to **improve systems, services, and outcomes for young children with or at risk for disabilities and their families.**



# Getting Started with the RPs

- The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) has developed a suite of resources available free to support practitioners, families, and professional development providers in the use of the DEC Recommended Practices.
- Key TA products include:
  - Performance Checklists for practitioners
  - Practice Guides for practitioners
  - Practice Guides for families





## Early Intervention Newsletter

- Monthly newsletter highlighting EI in Delaware
- DEC RP featured in each newsletter
- Birth to Three Program Updates and Events
- Family – Practitioner Spotlight

## Trainings and Communication Tools for Families

- Partnership opportunities with Birth to three program staff, & other stakeholders to develop training resources for families
- Training will incorporate DEC RP



## DEC RP in Delaware!

- Using DEC RP to Support the work of SSIP to improve SEO infants and toddlers with disabilities
- Create a resource page and toolkit with EI & DEC RP resources for families and practitioners
- Training opportunities for practitioners, CDW staff, ICC members and families
- Resources available in multiple languages ... and more!

### Upcoming Events

**2-18-2021 - Overview of Delaware's  
Early Intervention System  
12:00 noon**

# LOOKING AHEAD: SETTING THE AGENDA

## PRIORITIZING AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 2021 QUARTERLY MEETING

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- SSIP Update
- Annual Child Count and Settings Report
- APR Clarification Status
- Annual Grant Submission
- Other Priority Agenda Items



# LOOKING AHEAD

## 2021 MEETING DATES

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- Tuesday, April 27, 2021
- Tuesday, July 27, 2021
- Tuesday, October 26, 2021



# FINAL THOUGHTS

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- Announcements
- Comments
- Connections
- News ...

# MEETING ADJOURNED

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Next Meeting Date:

- Tuesday, April 27, 2021
  - 12-3PM
  - Details, agenda and additional materials will be sent in advance of the meeting.